

**SEARCH AND RESCUE**

**Primary Agencies:** Department of Safety – Fire Marshal’s Office  
Fish and Game Department

**Support Agencies:** Civil Air Patrol (CAP)  
Department of Justice (DOJ)  
Department of Safety – Marine Patrol  
Department of Transportation – Aeronautics

**I. Introduction**

**A. Purpose**

To provide assistance in all activities associated with Search and Rescue operations.  
To coordinate the integration of personnel and equipment resources.

**B. Scope**

The State's assistance under this function shall include personnel and equipment resources for the coordination and implementation of the following:

1. **Search:** All activities associated with the discovery of an individual or individuals lost or reported lost.
2. **Rescue:** All activities directed towards and requiring the utilization of trained personnel to locate and extricate persons trapped in damaged buildings, vehicles, woodlands, waterways, and contaminated areas; and to provide emergency medical treatment of such persons.

**II. Concept of Operations**

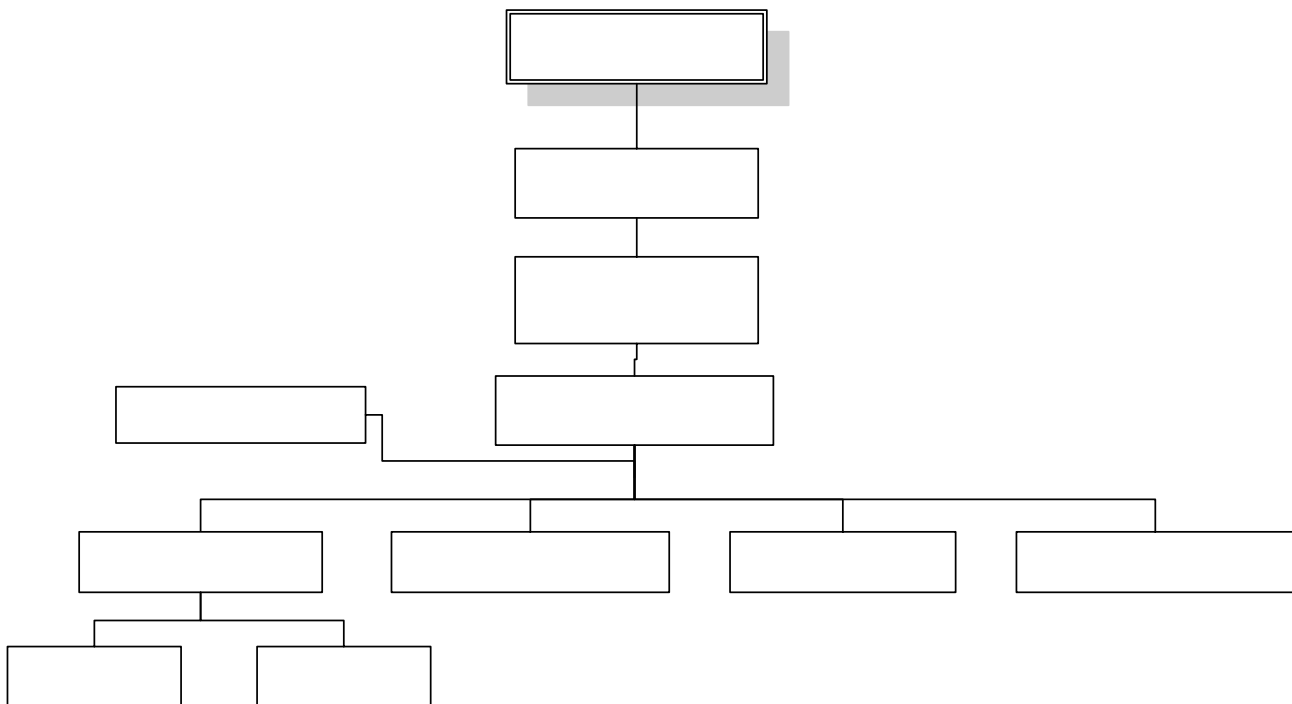
**A. General**

1. Emergency Support Function , Search and Rescue manages and coordinates the response of the State's Search and Rescue resources in response to any incident involving search and rescue operations. These include, but are not limited to: aircraft, collapsed structure, urban, water, and woodlands incidents.

2. Search and Rescue uses established Emergency Services and Search and Rescue organizations, processes and procedures. Responsibility for situation assessment and determination of resource needs rests with the incident commander in coordination with: local, State, and Federal Emergency Operating Centers (EOCs) and appropriate ESFs.
3. A major disaster or civil emergency may generate conditions that vary widely in scope, urgency, and degree of devastation. Substantial numbers of people could be in life threatening situations requiring prompt rescue and medical care. Because the mortality rate will dramatically increase in time, search and rescue efforts must begin immediately. For example: in an earthquake event, aftershocks, secondary events, and other effects such as fires, tsunamis, landslides, flooding, and hazardous material releases will compound problems and may threaten both survivors and rescue personnel.

### B. Organization

1. The organization structure of Search and Rescue is shown in (*Figure 9-1, Organizational Structure of Search and Rescue*).



**Figure 9-1: Functional Organization of Search and Rescue**

2. The staffing pattern and level of involvement will be dependant upon the severity of the emergency. Once the extent of Search and Rescue activation is determined, staffing at a minimum should be the Search and Rescue Coordinator.

3. ***Interagency Coordination***

Upon notification of an emergency requiring the activation of the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) or other significant State response, the primary agency for Search and Rescue will brief and consult with designated essential personnel, support agency representatives, and the Bureau of Emergency Management (BEM) Director or their designee to implement standard operating procedures/guides (SOPs/SOGs) in support of search and rescue operations. That response may involve:

- a. **Other Emergency Support Functions (ESFs)**
- b. **State Agencies**
- c. **Non-State Agencies**
- d. **Federal Agencies**

4. ***Specialized Teams/Units***

- a. Specialized local and Federal teams can be brought in as resources if the proper channels for requesting assistance are followed. Proper declarations would be required and requests should be made on an executive level to mobilize.

- b. **Local teams are:**

- 1) New England K-9 Association
- 2) Appalachian Mountain Club
- 3) Critical Incident Stress Debriefing
- 4) Mountain Rescue Service
- 5) Androscoggin Valley Search and Rescue
- 6) Upper Valley Wilderness Response Team
- 7) SOLO (Stonehearth Outdoor Learning Opportunities)

5. ***Operational Facilities/Sites***

Operation facilities and sites that can be used by Search and Rescue are: local and State EOCs, State Parks, State Ski areas, local fire stations, and local law enforcement facilities, private conference centers and private ski areas. These facilities can be activated by requests through the State or through the local agency having jurisdiction.

## **C. Notification and Activation**

1. During normal office hours, BEM, upon request of the primary agency, will initiate activation of Search and Rescue.
2. During non-office hours, initial notification will normally be made by the State Police Communication Center to the BEM Duty Officer. The BEM Duty Officer will then begin notification by established procedures.
3. Search and Rescue may be implemented at the request of any of the primary or support agencies through BEM when an incident exists or is impending that does or may require the support of Search and Rescue and/or other ESFs.
  - a. Activation of Search and Rescue may occur by agencies for the following:
    - 1) Fish and Game – Regarding Inland water and woodlands incidents.
    - 2) Fire Marshal’s Office for Urban Search and Rescue issues.
    - 3) Upon activation the appropriate primary agency representative(s) will implement existing operating procedures, mutual aid agreements, and notifications as outlined within existing agency protocols.
4. Notification and activation of designated personnel and resources will be the responsibility of the responding agencies.

**D. Emergency Response Actions**

The primary agency designee will be responsible for the following:

1. Assign a Search and Rescue representative to report to the State EOC as soon as possible after notification of Search and Rescue activation.
2. Brief, or be briefed by, the EOC Liaison Officer. The Search and Rescue representative will ensure that communication links are established with local or field command and control elements, and other primary and support agencies.
3. Determine initial and ongoing activities and damage assessment through established intelligence gathering procedures. Provide this information to Information & Planning, personnel for dissemination.

4. Determine needs and resolve issues regarding resource requirements and shortages in coordination with Resource Support, and personnel.
5. Maintain close contact with local, State, and Federal agencies and other EOC support ESFs.
6. Maintain complete logs of actions taken, resource requirements, and other activities.
7. Task support agencies as necessary for accomplishment of ESF responsibility.

**E. Recovery Actions**

1. When it is determined that the emergency conditions have stabilized or are improving, the BEM Director shall determine, in consultation with the State ESF representatives present, the requirements to sustain the recovery efforts. Factors that should be considered, but not limited to, are:
  - a. Identify specific areas that would sustain recovery efforts.
  - b. Mobilization needs for resources, personnel, and equipment.
  - c. Determining transportation and traffic control requirements.
  - d. Determining the adequacy of local, State and Federal communication pathways.
  - e. Determining additional communication needs.
  - f. Determining the coordination capabilities between local, State, and Federal officials to initiate recovery efforts.
2. As the recovery phase progresses and individual functional ESF response efforts are terminated, the Governor, through the BEM Director, may allow selected emergency response organizations and/or personnel to return to a non-emergency mode of operation.

**F. Deactivation**

Partial deactivation will occur based upon the extent of the current response and recovery actions and at the discretion of the local incident commander and/or the BEM Director. Full deactivation will occur at the discretion of the Governor and/or the BEM Director with input from the primary agencies. Factors to evaluate in considering suspension of a mission are found in Attachment 2.

### **III. Roles and Responsibilities**

#### **A. Co-Primary Agencies – Fish and Game Department and State Fire Marshal's Office**

The Department of Fish and Game and the State Fire Marshal's Office are the co-primary agencies for the implementation and coordination of Search and Rescue.

1. Notify and coordinate with the Department of Fish and Game to conduct search and rescue operations in the woodlands and inland waters.
2. Notify and coordinate with the Department of Safety – State Fire Marshal's Office to conduct Urban Search and Rescue operations, as appropriate.
3. Provide manpower, equipment, and technical assistance for large-scale search and rescue efforts in the appropriate setting.
4. Coordinate with Communications and Alerting to provide operational support, ensure communication links are established with local or field elements and other agencies, and provide agency resources where appropriate.
5. Coordinate with Fire Fighting to provide support staff and technical support of search and rescue efforts.
6. Coordinate with Resource Support to provide contracts and purchasing capabilities as well as resolve issues regarding resource requirements and shortages.
7. Coordinate with the EOC Operations Officer and Information and Planning, to help ensure that the Incident Action Plan is developed for each operational period.
8. Collect and maintain the following ESF status information and coordinate with Information and Planning to ensure inclusion into the Situation Report (SITREP):
  - a. Number of victim rescues attempted and completed.
  - b. Status of rescue operations.
  - c. Unmet Needs.
  - d. Allocated and requested Search and Rescue Resources.
  - e. Status of Critical Facilities (i.e., staging and rehabilitation areas, etc.).
  - f. Major Search and Rescue Issues/Activities.
  - g. Staffing and Resource Shortfalls.
9. Coordinate with BEM staff to enact memoranda of understandings, and to request assistance from Federal and other State agencies.

10. Coordinate with Law Enforcement and Security for, after hours dispatching, issue warnings information to other primary agencies, and provide aerial search and rescue support as needed.
11. Work with the Health and Medical Services to ensure the proper health and safety of State workers. Provide dissemination of protective actions in regards to public health, and provide proper guidance for sanitation measures involving food and water.
12. Coordinate with the Department of Safety – Fire Standards and Training – EMS, to provide as a liaison with local fire departments, to provide resources.
13. Coordinate with Department of Administrative Services – Bureau of Emergency Communications – E 9-1-1, for assistance in using the AT&T language line.
14. Coordinate with Department of Resource and Economic Development, to access areas under their control, and for additional resources when working a search and rescue incident.

***B. Support Agencies***

Provide operational support and resources, where appropriate, in support of the management of Search and Rescue.

1. ***General***
  - a. Provide operational support and resources, where appropriate, in support of the management of Search and Rescue.
  - b. Provide support to other ESFs, as requested.
  - c. Assess and augment if needed, the State agencies search and rescue capabilities and resources.
  - d. Provide periodic updates regarding agency activities and/or operations.
  - e. Implement interagency agreements as needed to support Search and Rescue activities/operations.
  - f. Document all agency activities, personnel and equipment utilization, and other expenditures, as prescribed in Attachment\_\_\_\_\_.
  - g. Providing technical assistance as requested.

2. ***Civil Air Patrol (CAP)***

Provide assistance in search missions.

3. ***Department of Justice***

- a. Provide search and rescue team referrals. (Involving possible terrorism attacks)
- b. Coordinates the medical examiners office when dealing with deceased victims.

4. ***Department of Safety – Marine Patrol***

- a. Assist in water search and rescue operations.
- b. Coordinate the provision of watercraft to support local and State search and rescue operations.

5. ***Department of Transportation – Aeronautics***

Provide aerial search and rescue support, through cooperation with Civil Air Patrol. NOTE: By MOU DOT aeronautics is the primary agency for Search of downed aircraft.

***IV. References***

***A. Plans***

- 1. Federal Response Plan, Search and Rescue, Urban Search and Rescue

***B. Standard Operating Procedures/Guides (SOPs/SOGs)***

1. ***Field SOPs***

- a. NH F&G SAR Recovery 84-17 CO Manual being updated, ref # may change
- b. NH F&G Drowning & Diving 84-18
- c. NH F&G Volunteer Workmen Compensation Benefits 84-19

- 2. S&R Coordinator.
- 3. Factors to Evaluate in Considering Suspension of an Inland water & Woodlands Mission.
- 4. NH Wing CAP Mission Notification Roster.
- 5. Search and Rescue Phone Tree.
- 6. NH Fish and Game Law Enforcement Division Roster.



7. Search and Rescue Alert and Notification SOG.
8. Search and Rescue Activation and Deactivation SOG.
9. Search and Rescue Position Checklist.

**C. Interagency Agreements/Compacts/Mutual Aid Agreements**

1. Interagency Agreements
2. Mutual Aid Agreements

**V. Attachments**

**A. Forms**

1. Chronological Event Log
2. Incident Report
3. Status Form
4. Message Form
5. BEM Emergency Shift Change
6. State Agency Emergency Shift Schedule

NOTE: All forms are bound separately and are located in the State EOC.

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